# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4252
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal of diversion of forest land for development of Samadhi place and Temple of God Shiva at village Shirale, Terf, Malakapur, Tal Shahywadi Distt. Kanpur for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any major illegal construction, commercial exploitation of this small piece of forest land is carried out since 1983;

(d) if so, whether villages and Bhatta Mandali have offered an alternative piece of land to the Forest department;

(e) if so, whether Maharashtra Government and various organisations have requested to the Government to consider the proposal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b) The Government of Maharashtra vide their letter no.FLD-2392/CR-156/F-10 dated 14th July, 1992 had submitted a proposal to the Central Government for diversion of 1.89 hectare of forest land for development of ancient `Samadhi` places and Temple of God Shiva in village Shirale Terf Malkapur, Taluka Shahuwadi, District Kolhapur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) As per the information made available by the State Government, a `Math` (monastery) was constructed by villagers on this land in the year 1984 in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(d), (e) & (f) The Government of Maharashtra, while forwarding the proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, had offered alternate non-forest land for compensatory afforestation. Also, in addition, compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land double in extent to the area being diverted has been proposed in lieu of the violation of the said Act. This proposal was rejected earlier by the Central Government on 5.2.1993. However, Ministry has received requests for reconsideration of the proposal and the same is under consideration of the Ministry.